

House Bill 1200

By: Representatives Dickson of the 6<sup>th</sup>, Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Amerson of the 9<sup>th</sup>, and Williams of the 4<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, so as to change certain eligibility requirements relating to HOPE teacher's scholarships; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.8, relating to HOPE teacher's scholarships, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(a) To be eligible for a HOPE teacher's scholarship, a student shall:

(1) Meet the residency requirements by:

(A) In the case of a student attending a unit of the University System of Georgia, meeting the requirements to be eligible for in-state tuition under the policy set by the board of regents; or

(B) In the case of a student attending an eligible private postsecondary institution, being classified as a legal resident of Georgia for the purposes of a tuition equalization grant;

(2) Be admitted into graduate school and into an advanced degree or approved teacher education program in a critical shortage field of study leading to certification or into an advanced degree program in education;

(3) Be one of the following:

(A) A teacher working in a public or private accredited school in Georgia who has a baccalaureate degree and is seeking an advanced degree in his or her current field which is a critical shortage field or in a new critical shortage field;

(B) An individual with a baccalaureate degree who is seeking an advanced degree in a critical shortage field;

(C) An individual with a baccalaureate degree in a critical shortage field who is seeking an advanced degree in education;

~~(C)~~(D) An individual with a master's degree in a critical shortage field who is seeking certification as a specialist or a doctorate in his or her current critical shortage field;

~~(D)~~(E) An individual with a master's degree in a field which is not a critical shortage field who is seeking an advanced degree in a critical shortage field;

~~(E)~~(F) An individual who has certification as a specialist in a critical shortage field who is seeking a doctorate in his or her current critical shortage field; or

~~(F)~~(G) A teacher working in a public or private accredited school in Georgia who is seeking to complete an approved program in a critical shortage field for which degree programs are not generally offered; and

(4) Agree to teach in his or her critical shortage field in a public school in Georgia at the preschool, elementary, middle, or secondary level for one academic year for each \$2,500.00 in HOPE teacher scholarship funds awarded and sign a promissory note that stipulates the cash repayment obligation incurred if the teaching service is not fulfilled."

## SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.